

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on March 27, 2006.

Claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 52, 54 and 56 are amended, claims 5, 10, 13-15, and 53 are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-4, 6-9, 11, 12, 16-52, and 54-60 are now pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-6, 8-41, and 43-60 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cromer (U.S. 6,177,860).

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.¹ To anticipate a claim, a reference must disclose every element of the challenged claim and enable one skilled in the art to make the anticipating subject matter.² The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim.³

Regarding claim 1, Cromer does not describe the use of a physical-tag and a logical-tag. More particularly, Cromer does not describe the use of one tag including “logical attribute information” and another including a “physical identifier”. Cromer describes a system of tagging a computer with information stored on a single RFID chip – a single tag.⁴ This chip stores “hardware configuration including device and the computer serial numbers”.⁵

Cromer does not describe a system having a “...physical-tag reading device, which is operable to read the physical-tag identifier from the physical-tag over an air interface...” (emphasis added). Cromer describes reading the RFID tag “using a plug connected RF tag interrogator”⁶ The RFID tag in Cromer is read over a wired interface.

¹ M.P.E.P. § 2131.

² *PPG Industries, Inc. v. Guardian Industries Corp.*, 75 F.3d 1558, 37 USPQ2d 1618 (Fed. Cir. 1996).

³ *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

⁴ Cromer Patent, col. 2, l. 13

⁵ Cromer Patent, col. 3 ll. 26-28

⁶ Cromer Patent, col. 3, ll. 33-34; col. 4, ll 33-34

Finally, Cromer describes reading from a computer's RFID tag to determine a computer's hardware configuration, and to establish a particular software profile.⁷ In order to achieve its end, Cromer describes a system where a computer is loaded with an chip containing its logical or hardware configuration data. The computer is accessed by the user and the chip is read via a wired device. Then the computer is given a particular software configuration which is written onto the chip. Once the computer is installed, a central server connects to the computer over the network using the logical information attributed to the computer (MAC address) and loads its software profile.⁸ Cromer never describes accessing any other tag or chip. As such, Cromer does not describe any element which associates a physical tag identifier derived from the physical-tag of a device with the logical information derived from the logical-tag of the device.

Based on the reasons presented above, Applicant believes that claim 1 is patentable over Cromer. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 1.

Regarding claim 4, this claim has been amended to include the limitation of claim 5. Cromer does not describe the use of a physical-tag and a logical-tag. More particularly, Cromer does not describe the use of one tag including logical attributes and another including a physical identifier. Additionally, Cromer does not describe a physical-tag to be used to access logical attribute information. Cromer describes a system of tagging a computer with information stored on a single RFID chip – a single tag.⁹

For these reasons, Applicant believes that claim 4 is patentable over Cromer. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 4.

Regarding claim 9, Cromer does not describe the use of a physical-tag and a logical-tag. More particularly, Cromer does not describe logical attribute information that is stored by a logical-tag and a physical-tag identifier is retrieved from a physical-tag. Additionally, Cromer does not describe the association of logical attribute information with a physical tag identifier. Cromer describes a system of tagging a computer with information stored on a single RFID chip – a single tag.

⁷ Cromer Patent, col. 3 ll. 26-28

⁸ See Cromer Patent, FIG. 1

⁹ Cromer Patent, col. 2, l. 13

For these reasons, Applicant believes that claim 9 is patentable over Cromer. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 9.

Regarding claim 16, Cromer does not describe a system having a "...physical-tag reading device, which is operable to read the physical-tag identifier from the physical-tag over an air interface..." (emphasis added). Additionally, Cromer does not describe reading a physical tag and associating the physical tag identifier with logical attribute information. Cromer describes reading the RFID tag "using a plug connected RF tag interrogator"¹⁰ The RFID tag in Cromer is read over a wired interface. The Cromer device can read and store the hardware configuration information present on the chip, and the device can also transfer a software profile onto the chip.¹¹ Cromer only describes the reading of logical attribute information (including MAC address, hardware configuration, software configuration...) from a single tag, so there is no other tag (i.e. a physical-tag) disclosed for a device to read in order to provide an association.¹²

For these reasons, Applicant believes that claim 16 is patentable over Cromer. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 16.

Regarding claim 24, Cromer does not describe a system having a "...physical-tag reading device, which is operable to read the physical-tag identifier from the physical-tag over an air interface..." (emphasis added). Additionally, Cromer does not describe reading a physical tag and associating the physical tag identifier with logical attribute information. Cromer describes reading the RFID tag "using a plug connected RF tag interrogator"¹³ The RFID tag in Cromer is read over a wired interface. The Cromer device can read and store the hardware configuration information present on the chip, and the device can also transfer a software profile onto the chip.¹⁴ Cromer only describes the reading of logical attribute information (including MAC address, hardware configuration, software configuration...) from a single tag, so there is no other tag (i.e. a physical-tag) disclosed for a device to read in order to provide an association.¹⁵

¹⁰ Cromer Patent, col. 3, ll. 33-34; col. 4, ll 33-34

¹¹ Cromer Patent, col. 3, ll 34-43

¹² Cromer Patent, col. 3 ll. 26-28; col. 4, ll. 17-19

¹³ Cromer Patent, col. 3, ll. 33-34; col. 4, ll 33-34

¹⁴ Cromer Patent, col. 3, ll 34-43

¹⁵ Cromer Patent, col. 3 ll. 26-28; col. 4, ll. 17-19

For these reasons, Applicant believes that claim 24 is patentable over Cromer. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 24.

Regarding claim 29, Cromer does not describe the receiving logical attribute information for an electronic device, as well as a physical tag identifier indicated by a physical-tag associated with the electronic device. Cromer describes a system of tagging a computer with information stored on a single RFID chip – a single tag.¹⁶ This chip stores “hardware configuration including device and the computer serial numbers”.¹⁷ Because Cromer does not describe the use of these two sources of distinct information, it cannot describe the combination of the two in a tracking record.

For these reasons, Applicant believes that claim 29 is patentable over Cromer. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 29.

Regarding claim 32, Cromer does not describe including logical attribute information stored by a logical-tag associated with a device, as well a physical tag identifier that includes a value indicated by a physical-tag on the device. Cromer describes a system of tagging a computer with information stored on a single RFID chip – a single tag.¹⁸ This chip stores “hardware configuration including device and the computer serial numbers”.¹⁹ Because Cromer does not describe the use of these two sources of distinct information, it cannot describe the combination of the two in a tracking record.

For these reasons, Applicant believes that claim 32 is patentable over Cromer. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 32.

Regarding claim 37, Cromer does not describe associating a logical-tag with an electronic device, where the logical-tag includes logical attribute information and associating a physical-tag with an electronic device, where the physical-tag includes a physical-tag identifier. Cromer describes a system of tagging a computer with information stored on a single RFID chip – a

¹⁶ Cromer Patent, col. 2, l. 13

¹⁷ Cromer Patent, col. 3 ll. 26-28

¹⁸ Cromer Patent, col. 2, l. 13

¹⁹ Cromer Patent, col. 3 ll. 26-28

single tag.²⁰ This chip stores “hardware configuration including device and the computer serial numbers”.²¹ Because Cromer does not describe the use of two separate tags, it cannot describe receiving a request for logical attribute information (from the logical-tag) from a requester having information regarding a physical-tag.

For these reasons, Applicant believes that claim 37 is patentable over Cromer. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 37.

Regarding claim 40, Cromer does not relate to retrieving logical attribute information that includes a configuration description for the electronic device based on a physical-tag identifier. Cromer describes a system of tagging a computer with information stored on a single RFID chip – a single tag.²² This chip stores “hardware configuration including device and the computer serial numbers”.²³ Cromer describes reading from this chip to retrieve logical attribute information (including MAC address, hardware configuration ,software configuration...).²⁴

Additionally, Cromer describes reading the RFID tag “using a plug connected RF tag interrogator”.²⁵ Cromer does not describe a physical-tag reading device reading over an air interface. The RFID tag in Cromer is read over a wired interface.

For these reasons, Applicant believes that claim 40 is patentable over Cromer. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 40.

Regarding claim 49, Cromer does not describe associating a physical-tag identifier with logical attribute information that includes a configuration description for the electronic device. Cromer describes a system of tagging a computer with information stored on a single RFID chip – a single tag.²⁶ This chip stores “hardware configuration including device and the computer

²⁰ Cromer Patent, col. 2, l. 13

²¹ Cromer Patent, col. 3 ll. 26-28

²² Cromer Patent, col. 2, l. 13

²³ Cromer Patent, col. 3 ll. 26-28

²⁴ Cromer Patent, col. 3 ll. 26-28; col. 4, ll. 17-19

²⁵ Cromer Patent, col. 3, ll. 33-34; col. 4, ll. 33-34

²⁶ Cromer Patent, col. 2, l. 13

serial numbers”.²⁷ Cromer describes reading from this chip to retrieve logical attribute information (including MAC address, hardware configuration ,software configuration...²⁸

Additionally, Cromer describes reading the RFID tag “using a plug connected RF tag interrogator”.²⁹ Cromer does not describe a physical-tag reading device reading over an air interface. The RFID tag in Cromer is read over a wired interface.

For these reasons, Applicant believes that claim 49 is patentable over Cromer. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 49

Regarding claim 52, Cromer does not describe the use a logical attribute information that is stored by a logical-tag and a physical-tag identifier retrieved from a physical-tag.

Additionally, Cromer does not describe associating logical attribute information with a physical-tag identifier. Cromer describes a system of tagging a computer with information stored on a single RFID chip – a single tag.³⁰ Because Cromer does not describe the use of two separate tags, it cannot describe the association of their respective information.

For these reasons, Applicant believes that claim 52 is patentable over Cromer. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 52.

Regarding claim 56, Cromer does not describe a logical-tag of an electronic device storing logical attribute information and retrieving a physical-tag identifier from a physical-tag. Cromer describes a system of tagging a computer with information stored on a single RFID chip – a single tag.³¹ Because Cromer describes the use of only one tag, it cannot describe the use of information from one tag to be used to retrieve information on a second tag.

For these reasons, Applicant believes that claim 56 is patentable over Cromer. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 56

Regarding claim 58, Cromer does not describe logical attribute information stored by a logical-tag associated with a device, as well as a physical-tag identifier including a value

²⁷ Cromer Patent, col. 3 ll. 26-28

²⁸ Cromer Patent, col. 3 ll. 26-28; col. 4, ll. 17-19

²⁹ Cromer Patent, col. 3, ll. 33-34; col. 4, ll 33-34

³⁰ Cromer Patent, col. 2, l. 13

³¹ Cromer Patent, col. 2, l. 13

indicated by a physical-tag associated with the device. Cromer describes a system of tagging a computer with information stored on a single RFID chip – a single tag.³² This chip stores “hardware configuration including device and the computer serial numbers”.³³ Because Cromer does not describe the use of these two sources of distinct information, it cannot describe the combination of the two in a tracking record.

For these reasons, Applicant believes that claim 58 is patentable over Cromer. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 58.

Dependent claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 11, 12, 17-23, 25-28, 30, 31, 33-36, 38, 39, 41, 43,-48, 50, 51, 54, 55, 57, 59 and 60 each depend respectively from independent claims 1, 4, 9, 16, 24, 29, 32, 37, 40, 49, 52, 56 and 58, and recite the elements of the respective independent claim from which they depend. Thus, Applicant believes that the dependent claims are also patentable over Cromer for at least the reasons presented above regarding the independent claims, plus the additional elements recited in the dependent claims. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 11, 12, 17-23, 25-28, 30, 31, 33-36, 38, 39, 41, 43,-48, 50, 51, 54, 55, 57, 59 and 60.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 7 and 42 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cromer in view of Muehl (U.S. 6,859,757).

Dependent claims 7 and 42 depends from claims 4 and 40, and respectively recite their related independent claims. Thus, Applicant believes that claim 7 and 42 are also patentable over Cromer for at least the reasons presented above regarding claim 4 and 40, plus the additional elements recited in claim 7 and 42. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 7 and 42.

³² Cromer Patent, col. 2, l. 13

³³ Cromer Patent, col. 3 ll. 26-28

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney Ann McCrackin ((612) 349-9592) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

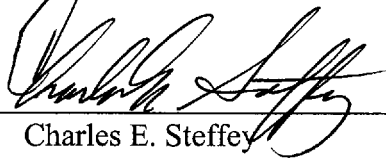
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